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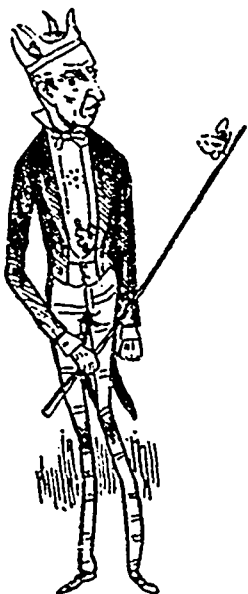
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The Foreman of the Jury Speaks on the Cartoons.



imprisonment of Mr. John T. Hawke, editor of the *Moncton Transcript*, for writing and publishing certain severe strictures upon a decision of the Supreme Court of this province, has attracted widespread public attention and unqualified public condemnation of the mode of trial. The facts of this *cause celebre* are briefly these:—A date for the trial of the liberal petition for Westmorland County, to unseat Mr. Josiah Wood, M. P., was originally agreed upon satisfactorily to all parties. Afterwards Judge Fraser changed the date to Nov. 8, notwithstanding that the liberal petitioner objected on the ground that such a late date by the

operation of the six months limit might invalidate the petition. Judge Fraser ruled that it would not: and insisted upon the

later date. The conservative counsel then appealed, to the Supreme Court, though the Judge had power to correct the error by fixing a date anew, yet ruled the petition out on the ground that the date selected was outside the six months limit. Judge Fraser also reversed his own decision by deciding with the majority. Mr. Hawke voiced the indignation of his friends by denouncing the incident as a miscarriage of justice, and used some severe reflections. He was charged with contempt of court, and in a four or five hours' address, without any counsel to assist, pleaded his own cause before the court. And both the bench and the bar passed the highest encomiums upon the manner as well as the matter of the address from a layman's standpoint. We mention this because some journals are striving to represent that Mr. Hawke's prominence is entirely due to mere accident unsupported by ability. The result of the whole proceedings is Mr. Hawke's imprisonment for two months, and his further imprisonment till \$200 fine be paid. Mr. Hawke throughout has demanded "A TRIAL BY JURY," and we as the Supreme Court of Appeal on behalf of public opinion have overridden the decision of the Supreme Court of New Brunswick and granted him that mode of trial. The verdict in his favor is given in our leading cartoon. The issue now is not whether Mr. Hawke's strictures were deserved and justifiable, but whether or not the mode of trial under which he is punished is not unfair and unjust, inasmuch as his accusers were his judges and there is no right of appeal. The verdict of the JURY is that it was not a fair mode of trial and that the defendant should be discharged, as his imprisonment is, under all the circumstances, a dangerous infringement upon the liberty of the press.

* * *

Sir Charles Tupper in his budget speech this year gave a glowing account of the financial standing of Canada. It (Canada) was now in such a good position that any amount of money could be borrowed at 3¼ per cent. interest. He eulogized the present government's economical use of the public money. At no time in the history of Canada had it been so cheaply and so satisfactorily conducted. He admitted that this government (of which he was a member) had added largely to the public expenditure and debt of the Dominion, but the money expended was to the advantage of this great and glorious country. Public works were conducted on a lavish scale, railway and steamship subsidies were granted without stint, and now, said he, all we have to do is to raise another loan of say \$25,000,000 to help pay the interest on former loans and the present public works.

* * *

It is no wonder that the Dominion Treasury is in such an emaciated condition. Not to be wondered at when taxes are largely increased. Too many subsidies are granted to useless railway companies. Too many "fake" railway companies in Canada who run the road on nothing but the subsidy. Too many members of Parliament who vote for their own pockets and the country afterward.

* * *

Mr. John V. Ellis strongly opposed the Chignecto Ship Railway bill. Mr. Ellis is an adept at opposing everything proposed by the government. If a true Liberal is "guaged", as one who always votes with the Liberals through thick and thin, Mr. Ellis must be a true Liberal.